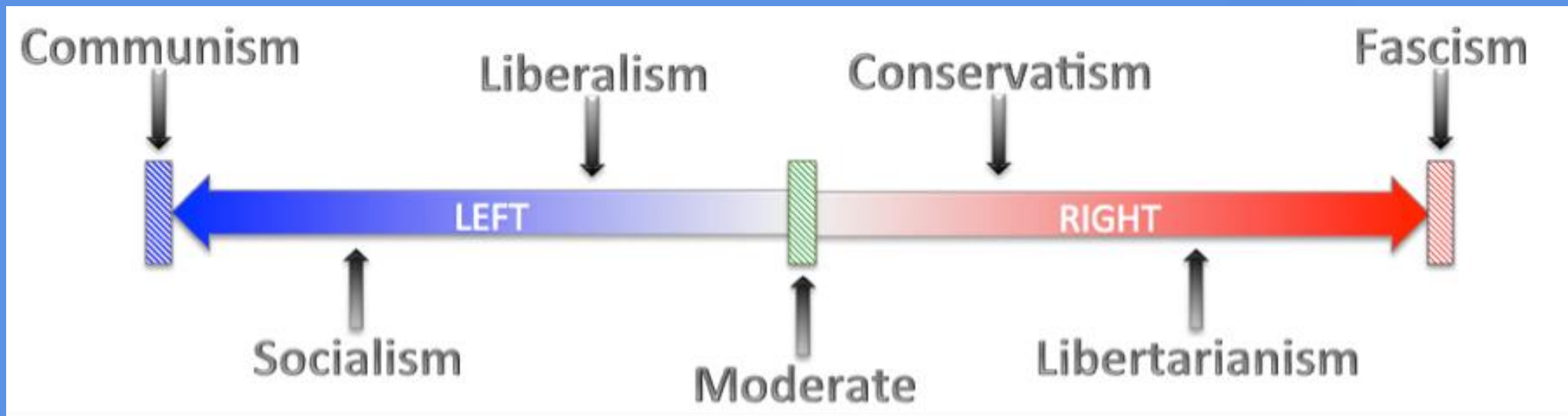


International Political Systems

The Political Spectrum

- All governments exist along a spectrum ranging from Liberal (The Political Left), and Conservative (the Political Right)
 - Socialism is far left, Libertarianism is far Right
- Grows out of economical, educational, and social conditions and experiences



Liberalism

- Supports active federal government in promoting individual welfare and supporting civil rights, and accepts peaceful political social change within the existing political system
 - In favor of more government role in society and progressive social stances

Conservatism

- Promotes a limited government role in helping individuals economically, supports traditional values and lifestyles, favors a more active role for government in promoting national security, and approaches change cautiously
 - Promotes a more limited government role and supports traditional values

Unitary Governments

- One central government is in control of smaller states or entities with very little to no shared power
 - Ex. The United Kingdom, China, Saudi Arabia

Centralized Power: Power held by a central authority



Forms of Unitary Governments

- Autocracy – Power typically held by one person or a small group of people
 - Dictatorship – Governmental power controlled by one person
 - Monarchy – Governmental power controlled by a hereditary king or queen.
 - Oligarchy – Governmental power controlled by a group of people or particular political party
 - Theocracy – Governmental power and religious power are linked one in the same

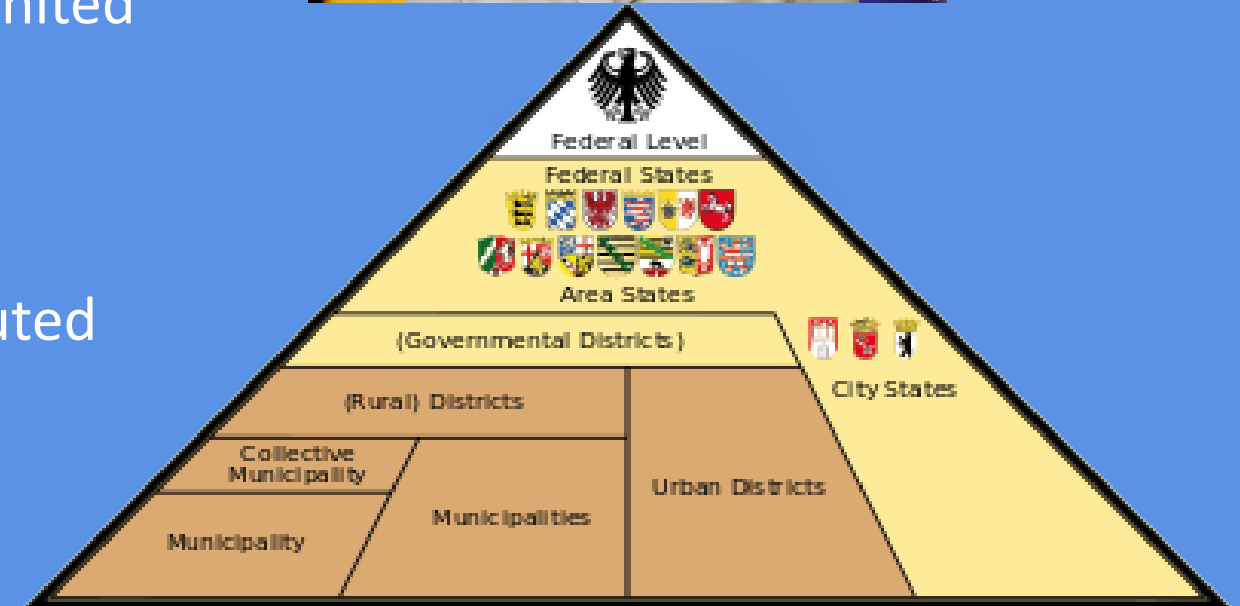


Federalist Governments

- Power is shared between a large national government and smaller state or provincial governments. Smaller entities are allowed some self rule.
 - Ex. Australia, Brazil, Germany, the United States



De-Centralized Power: Power distributed away from the central authority



Forms of Federations

- Democratic – Government power derived from the people
 - Presidential – The President is constitutionally independent from the legislature
 - Parliamentary – Electors select representatives who then select a prime minister
 - Constitutional Monarchy – Power is constitutionally divided between a monarch and a parliament
 - Republic – Electors vote to select representatives to serve in the government
 - As opposed to a direct democracy where citizens vote directly on governmental issues

Confederations

- Power is mostly divided between the individual states with a much weaker central government
 - Ex. The Articles of Confederation, Confederate States of America

